

### REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 20, 21, and 26-31 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 20, 21, 26, and 29-31 being independent.

In this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 22-25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, Claims 1, 20, 21, and 26 have been amended, and Claims 29-31 are being newly presented.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added, and no new issues raised, by this Amendment.

Applicant is filing this Preliminary Amendment with an RCE, and Applicant wishes to comment on the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1, 3-11, and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,821,997 (Kawamura) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,071 (Ito), made in the final Official Action dated July 12, 2004. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to advance prosecution, Applicant presents herein claim amendments designed to clarify the scope of the claimed invention.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus including input means, coding means, recording means, decoding means, and display means. The input means inputs image data representing an original image. The coding means compression-encodes the input image data representing the original image. The recording means records the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium. The decoding means decodes the compression-encoded image data before the recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium. The display means selectively displays, prior to the recording means recording the compression-encoded/decoded image data on the external recording medium, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by the decoding

means. The input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data both represent the same original image.

The invention, as recited in independent Claim 20, relates to a computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps. Those steps include an input step, a coding step, a recording step, a decoding step, and a display step which perform functions parallel to those performed by the corresponding means recited in Claim 1.

The invention as recited in Claim 21 relates to a computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps. The steps recited in Claim 21 include an input step, a coding step, a decoding step, and a display step. In the input step, image data is input representing an original image. The coding step compression-encodes the input image data representing the original image data which was input in the input step. The decoding step decodes the compression-encoded image data. The display step displays on display means difference image data between the input image data input in the input step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step. The original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image are common.

The invention, as recited in independent Claim 26, is directed to an image processing apparatus including an image pickup unit, a compression/decompression circuit, and a display. The image pickup unit generates input image data representing an original image from a captured image. The compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes the input image data of the original image and decodes the compression-encoded image data of the original image. The display displays on display means difference image data between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by the compression/decompression circuit. The original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data is common.

Newly added independent Claim 29 relates to an image processing apparatus including an input unit, a coding unit, a recording unit, a decoding unit, and a display unit. The units recited in independent Claim 29 are arranged to operate by performing functions parallel to those recited for the means recited in Claim 1.

Newly added independent Claim 30 relates to an image processing method for performing steps parallel to those recited for the computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, recited in Claim 20.

Newly added independent Claim 31 relates to an image processing method including an input step, a coding step, a decoding step, and a display step. The steps recited for the method of Claim 31 perform functions parallel to those recited for the computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps recited in Claim 21.

Applicant submits that the invention recited in these independent claims is not taught or suggested by Kawamura, alone or in combination with Ito.

Kawamura relates to a still image recording apparatus for compressing and storing image information. Ito relates to a data communication apparatus for encoding information data using a predetermined encoding method. In particular, in the Office Action of July 12, 2004, and during the interview held October 7, 2004, the Examiner focused on column 7, lines 2-6 of Ito, which state:

If the reproduced image data is to be displayed by EVF 12, it is expanded by the compression/expansion unit 7, converted into analog signals by the D/A converter 11, and supplied to EVF 12 to display images.

However, Applicant submits that the discussion in that paragraph of Ito relates to displaying an image that previously had been recorded on a recording medium in a compressed state. In contrast, the invention, as recited in various language in the independent claims, relates to displaying the compression-encoded/decoded image data prior to recording the data on an external recording medium.

During the interview, the Examiner stated that he considered Claim 1 to cover an EVF displaying such data even after that data had been recorded, because he considered Claim 1 to require at least a buffer that records the compression-encoded/decoded image data before it is displayed.

Applicant submits, however, that this interpretation impermissibly adds a limitation not recited in the claims, namely a buffer. In addition, a buffer is not an external recording medium as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1, as well as independent Claims 20, 26, 29, and 30 are patentably distinguishable from Kawamura, alone or in combination with Ito. In addition, independent Claims 21 and 31 recite displaying difference image data between the input image data input in the input step, and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step, wherein the original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image is common. Applicant submits that Kawamura, alone or in combination with Ito, fails to teach or suggest at least this feature recited in those independent claims.

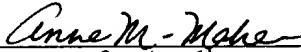
Accordingly, Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentably distinguishable from the cited art.

Applicant further submits that dependent claims are allowable for the reasons discussed above for their respective base claims. In addition, Applicant submits that these claims recite additional features further distinguishing them from the cited patents. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests individual consideration of each dependent claim.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration, and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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